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## Editorial Notes

We are approaching the end of March, the close of the Church's fiscal year. Treasurers will do well to gather up all collections and forward them to the proper central treasurers in ample time to be credited by the last day of the month.

Dr. Brooks, of "The Philadelphia Presbyterian," and Dr. Clarke, of "The Cumberland Presbyterian," of Nashville, were members of the Council of Reformed Churches which met last week in New Orleans. It was a pleasure to meet both of them.

The next gathering in the round of organizations designed to bring together those who are of similar faith and order will be the meeting of the Ninth Council of the Alliance of the Reformed Churches throughout the world holding the Presbyterian system, on June 15-20, in New York City. About eighty Presbyterian bodies will be represented. The time, it is feared, will not be favorable to a large attendance.

The great work of the Church on its aggressive side is to go and preach to any part of the world that is Christless. Whether this is close at hand or far away matters nothing. The duty is to tell of Christ. Distance or place have no relation to missions. The "home missionary," as we sometimes call him, is fulfilling the law of the kingdom no less than the "foreign missionary." Both deserve the support, the interest, the sympathy, and the praise of the Church.

From the Almanac of Missions issued by the A. B. C. F. M. we find the statement that the number of stations maintained in heathen lands by the evangelical churches in the United States exceeds eleven hundred (1,105), and that the number of out-stations exceeds ten thousand (10,110). Of missionaries there are two thousand men and four thousand women, with twenty-seven thousand native helpers. This is a good army working for the Lord.

As the fruitage of their work, there are 5,745 churches and 672,000 communicants. This means far more than a like number of members in this country, because of the care which is used by the missionaries not to receive any who give weak evidence of conversion. In this there is great encouragement.

The growth of the evangelical churches in the United States last year, was at the rate of one and a half per cent, but on the mission field the increase in membership was equal to twelve per cent. There were 157,574 new communing members received into mission churches during year or 450 each day. The contribution to Foreign Missions in America was increased by \$602,000, while the decrease in Great Britain was \$96,000. There are 19,875 Christian missionaries in foreign fields, of whom about 5,000 are ordained ministers, 3,000 laymen, and nearly ten thousand women, wives, widows and unmarried women.

In the "Presbyterian" of Philadelphia, we read that Eleanor Van Dyke, aged nine years, recited the whole of the Catechism perfectly in twenty-two minutes to her father. Eleanor learned the Catechism in three weeks, while confined to her room convalescing from illness. The fact suggests that good results can be attained in this direction, if parents will give attention to the matter.

The substitution of method for spirit, of machinery for personal consecration and work, is bound to react unhappily upon the Church. Its unnaturalness, its feverishness, its undue magnifying of human and depreciation of divine organization, its appeal to the emotional and sentimental rather than faith in the sure word of God and in the promised presence of Christ, make it ephemeral. The enthusiasm associated with it cannot be sustained. The habit itself cultivates increased taste for its indulgence. As with all such habits, each instance demands something more pronounced the next time, until the condition becomes morbid.

If the outlawing of the liquor traffic deprives some people of employment and makes a few vacant corner houses, why not set over against these results the increased trade in good groceries and clothes and shoes for the families of the men whose weakness has been preyed upon by the saloons? If the saloon men make less, the other dealers make more money. If the saloonists employ fewer people, the other industries employ more. The wages of all honest workers remain just the same. With the saloons gone, however, these wages and earnings simply seek new directions. Comfort in homes and deposits in savings banks tell the happy tale.